

U.S. Forms Special Network to Keep Tab on World Terrorists

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WASHINGTON--The U.S. government created Friday a special committee composed of the CIA, FBI and State Department to coordinate all intelligence information on international terrorist groups.

"We knew nothing about this Black September organization," a State Department official said, referring to the group that claimed credit for the Munich Olympics slaughter. "This committee will try to generate information about it and any others."

The government also set up a special office to seek information on foreign terrorists from other governments and to solicit their views on combating them.

Another move was to beef up protection for foreign diplomats in the United States. Forty agents of the Executive Protective Service have been sent to New York on indefinite assignment to guard foreign missions accredited to the United Nations.

The Israeli Embassy here had additional EPS guards in the vicinity Friday although its employees left early for home to celebrate the beginning at dusk of the Jewish New Year.

A rumor circulated here during the day that Arab extremists would attack Jewish Americans during the holidays but no government agency had any evidence to give credence to the story, which apparently started in a CBS report from Europe.

"We have no evidence," one official said, "but I would not be terribly surprised if something happened."

The government's actions Friday

were an attempt to "do something—anything," as one official said, in the face of the ruthless Arab strikes at Israelis and President Nixon's order to take whatever steps necessary to protect potential targets of the terrorists in the United States.

One thread that has been discerned in the terrorist attacks, and which is causing some anxiety among officials involved in the terrorist control effort, is the possible use of non-Arabs by the extremists.

In 1970 a youth with dual American-Nicaraguan citizenship was slain in an aircraft hijacking attempt and last May three Japanese carried out the machine-gun slaughter at Tel Aviv airport.

This makes the pool of potential terrorists enormously greater than if only Palestinian Arabs were suspect. It also makes effective precautionary steps more difficult.

The State Department's acting assistant secretary, Rodger P. Davies, is chairman of the new intelligence coordinating committee. The Central Intelligence Agency is responsible for obtaining information from beyond the territorial limits of the United States, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the United States itself.

Deputy Assistant Secretary Alfred J. Atherton is

in charge of department efforts to consult with foreign governments on international terrorist groups and their activities.

In a final development of the day, the State Department said that Secretary of State William P. Rogers has endorsed a bill to make attacking or murdering a foreign diplomat a federal crime.

The measure is expected to come to a vote in the Senate within the next few days.